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**Guiana: British, Dutch, and French.** By James Rodway. 308 pp. Map, ills., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1912. 9 x 6.

This is one of the latest additions to the well-known 'South American Series.' The story of Guiana, we are told "is one of colonization under very great difficulties, of trading ventures, failures through ignorance—and labor experiments." This statement suggests the main themes of the book, for nearly half the text is historical, dealing mainly with English activities, and British Guiana, but discussing Dutch and French activities in their respective sections of the country. Chapters are also given to: villages and river people in British Guiana, the people and immigration, native Indians, census and mortality of different races, fauna and flora, agricultural and natural products, travel notes, and trade. There is also a bibliography and a map.

Two things stand out sharply: (1) The arraignment of the French policy in Cayenne; and, (2) the discussion of labor problems, which comes to the front at almost every turn.

Cayenne is called a "blot on Guiana" and "deserves everything that has been said against it." Cayenne and alcoholism—"for no doubt stimulants have killed more white men than the climate"—are held responsible for the bad name of Guiana. This evil reputation is "no longer deserved." Even Cayenne is "no more unhealthful than other tropical colonies," but suffers from the evil effects of the convict system which "stands in the way of progress." French Guiana will not attract settlers, capital, or become a valuable colony until this system is changed.

The labor problem is the most interesting topic in the book. We are told: "The white man cannot labor in the field—he can only direct and control." "If there is a dense native population something may be done." "Tropical countries can only be developed by tropical races." "On the amount of imported labor has always depended the prosperity of Guiana." Thus, British Guiana has been most important because it has the largest labor supply of the three Guianas. Following 1796, increased slave trade caused increased exports, while abolition of the slave trade in 1807 seriously checked development, and the abolition of slavery in 1834 nearly ruined the colony. In the year of abolition, exports were: sugar, 45,000 tons; cotton, 5,319 bales; coffee, 1,640 tons. Eleven years later, exports were: sugar, 19,000 tons; cotton, none; coffee, 51 tons. Later coffee also dropped from the list, and has only recently reappeared.

The importation of Indian coolies has saved the day, and given the best labor yet found. The Indian coolie is "fast becoming the backbone of British Guiana" and "certainly will be the man of the future" if the immigration system is continued. He is "more reliable than the negro," can be depended on for five days work per week and enjoys better health than "the other races," probably because he is "the only real tropical man who dresses to suit the climate."

These items suggest the general tone of the book, which is decidedly interesting in every way. The only serious criticism which may be ventured is that the author says two little about Dutch and French Guiana, with which he is personally better acquainted than this book shows.

WALTER S. TOWER.

## AFRICA

**L'Afrique Occidentale Française.** Par Louis Sonolet. 2ème édition. 246 pp. Map, ills. Hachette et Cie., Paris, 1912. 7½ x 5.

A French view of territorial and colonial expansion generally emphasizes the fact that her territorial ambitions have not been blazoned by many wars but that her policy is one of pacific penetration. This account of French West Africa is valuable then as an amplification of the French idea of colonization, and at the same time there can be gained from it a good conception of the present stage of the country. The tools of her labor are the natives; and the

French from the beginning have instructed them in the arts of military and administrative organization, sanitation, commerce and industry. A chapter on railroads gives much information concerning the various lines, constructed and proposed. The author reverses the general saying that colonies are made for commerce and expounds the commercial and industrial development of the French possessions from the standpoint of commerce as a necessity for the colonies. Agriculture, grazing, hunting and fishing as occupations in this land are considered in detail. The book ends with a description of the native population, principally to make clear the general characteristics of the indigenous society in their bearings on the French colonial policy.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

**L'Afrique équatoriale française.** Par Maurice Rondet-Saint. iv and 312 pp.

Map. Plon-Nourrit et Cie., Paris, 1911. Frs. 3.50.  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ .

After the renown, which the author acquired through two preceding works, of which one was crowned by the Academy, this sketchy disposition of the future of the African colonies of France is disappointing. He has made all too scant use of his studies in Gaboon itself. His recommendations seem trivial when measured by the pressing need of the metropolis to develop colonies and equally when measured by the tragedy which now saddens French colonial life. Is Gaboon to be a great and a productive empire, or is it going to drain France of its resources and destroy the African peoples whom the French have undertaken to civilize? With that question coming foremost it is irksome to find that any man who has visited that coast and its rearward territories stops at the threshold to debate the preferability of shipping non-commissioned officers steerage or second class. Not many Frenchmen go to the Congo, few indeed outside the army of functionaries of the government and clerks of trading companies. Surely the stay-at-home Frenchman is entitled to hear a voice speaking with true information about this land, which may be an empire or may be a cemetery, he knows not as yet which. Instead of grave consideration of the burden which France has assumed, he finds here the recommendation that Africa will not really pay until Thomas Cook has exploited it for the tourist trade, until the motor clubs have established petrol stations along the Congo from Banana to Equatorville, until the Société Cynégétique has attracted the big game hunters away from British and German East Africa, until French yachtsmen forsake Cowes and Kiel for the long cruise to Dakar. It is surprising that any observer could have traversed this territory with so scant regard of the great drama which is there and now in action.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**A Colony in the Making; or, Sport and Profit in British East Africa.** By Lord Cranworth. xiv and 359 pp. Map, illus., index. Macmillan Co., New York, 1912. \$4. 9 x 6.

A critical survey of British East Africa as to its economic prospects, conditions favorable to development and drawbacks, such as distance from Europe and the nearly complete absence of minerals. Facts relating to these topics fill two-thirds of the book; the balance is devoted to game, with emphasis on the nature and habits of the animals. The chief economic assets are found in the wide-spread highlands covering large areas from 4,000 to 8,500 feet above the sea. The climate of the highlands is unsurpassed. The soil is rich, abundant and waiting only to be tilled. No better grazing can be found. The rivers are abundant and many of them clear and beautiful. The forests are almost unsurpassed in Africa. Labor in the Protectorate is plentiful and intelligent.

The only important mineral resource is the crystalline soda in Lake Magadi, sixty miles southwest of Nairobi, the finest known soda lake in the world. A branch railroad is being constructed to it, and a large company has been organized to work the field. The lake contains over 200 million tons of soda of extraordinary purity.